Rural roads in Gujarat

1679. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to construct roads in rural areas in the State of Gujarat during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the total kilometers of roads to be constructed; and

(c) the total fund allotted to the State Government for the construction of these roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) During the current financial year 2004-05 proposal for construction of 266.21 km. of roads under Phase IV of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana(PMGSY) in Gujarat have been considered by the Empowered Committee. Release of funds is dependent on utilization of earlier released amounts.

Production of bivoltine silk

1680. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production of bivoltine silk in the country during 2003-04;

(b) what is the estimated production of bivoltine silk in the country during 2004-05;

(c) the expected production of bivoltine silk form Karnataka during 2004-05;

(d) whether there is any proposal to introduce sericulture technology machines to increase production of bivoltine silk;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) how many such sericulture technology machines are proposed to be provided to the farmers in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Production of bivoltine silk in the country during 2003-04 was 609 MT.

(b) Estimated production of bivoltine silk in the country during 2004-05 is around 950 MT.

(c) The estimated production of bivoltine silk in Karnataka during 2004-05 is around 450 MT.

(d) to (f) Under the Research & Development (R&D) Scheme of Central Silk Board (CSB) continuous efforts are made for development and improvement of technology for pre-cocoon and post-cocoon silk processes like farm equipments and infrastructure, rearing, reeling and weaving practices, cocoon drying, dyeing and de-gumming etc. aimed at increasing production, productivity and quality of silk including bivoltine silk. Under the centrally sponsored scheme *i.e.* Catalytic Development Programme implemented by CSB in collaboration with the State Governments financial and technical assistance is provided to the beneficiaries based on the proposals received from the State Governments and approved by CSB.

Subsidy to powerloom sector

†1681. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with a view to salvage the powerloom sector from the crisis, Government are considering to provide subsidy to the industry in view of hard time being faced by textile industry particularly powerloom sector for last few years and on account of abolition of quota system in international trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress of the action taken/to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No Sir. The Government of India is already implementing a package of schemes for modernization of the powerloom sector in India. This includes a 20 per cent Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for the benchmarked technology pertaining to weaving and preparatory machinery in the powerloom sector. The investment limit on this machinery has recently been raised to Rs. 1.00 crore with effect from 13.01.05 from the previous limit of Rs. 60.00 lakhs. The powerloom sector is free to choose between benefits under this scheme or the 5 per cent interest subsidy under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS). The Group Workshed Scheme offers 15 per cent Capital Subsidy to powerloom owners for building modern factory infrastructure.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.